



Department of Homeland Security IAIP Directorate Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 22 September 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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Daily Overview

- The Associated Press reports washed out and damaged bridges, twisted rail lines, and closed roads have already started to affect the flow of goods to, from and through the Florida Panhandle, as well as commuters and travelers. (See item [8](#))
- News—Medical.net reports there is a new computer program called RealOpt to help state, city, and county healthcare departments organize the most efficient plan for treating infectious illness, whether it's a natural or man-made outbreak. (See item [23](#))
- AScribe Newswire reports Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has developed an interactive computer program that building managers and owners can use to assess their vulnerability to — and to prepare for — chemical, biological, and radiological weapons attacks or accidental toxic releases. (See item [31](#))

DHS/IAIP Update Fast Jump

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *September 21, Bloomberg* — Oil hits \$47.30 a barrel on concern Russian exports may be cut. Crude oil rose to a one-month high of \$47.30 a barrel on concern that Russian exports will be disrupted after utilities cut some power supplies to OAO Yukos Oil Co., the country's top producer. Electricity sales were reduced to Yukos because of past-due bills, regional generator OAO Tyumenenergo said on its Website, a day after Yukos said it may have

to halt some exports to China. "The prospect that Russian deliveries to China may be suspended has increased anxiety" about global supplies, said Jonathan Leak, senior vice president of risk management at World Fuels Services Corp., the world's largest marketer of jet and marine fuels. Crude oil for October delivery was up 65 cents, or 1.4 percent, to \$47 a barrel at 1:15 p.m. on the New York Mercantile Exchange, after earlier rising 2.1 percent to the highest since August 23. Prices reached a record \$49.40 a barrel on August 20.

Source: http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000103&sid=aswg9jNZTnsI&refer=news_index

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

2. *September 21, Associated Press* — **Hydrochloric acid leaks from train car.** Authorities in Fayetteville, NC, say a leaking train car released a cloud of hydrochloric acid near the Cumberland County Jail on Tuesday September 21. The Fayetteville Observer reports that the leak was contained in less than an hour. One person was injured. **Fayetteville Fire Department officials say a hazardous materials team was called out after 9 a.m. when a cloud of vapor 200 feet high was spotted at the Univar chemical company on Worth Street. Officials say a train car on the tracks at the company was leaking.** Rescue workers found an unidentified employee on the ground, and he was taken by ambulance to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Inmates in the county jail, which is across the street from the chemical company, were confined to their cells while the fire department worked to contain the leak. Hydrochloric acid is a respiratory irritant and can be fatal.

Source: <http://www.nbc17.com/news/3748217/detail.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

3. *September 21, Pacific Daily News (GUAM)* — **Air Force may invest billions in Guam base.** The U.S. Air Force anticipates investing one billion to two billion dollars into Andersen Air Force Base within the next five to 10 years, said Air Force Colonel Steve Wolborsky, vice commander of the 36th Air Expeditionary Wing. The investment reflects recognition of Andersen as "the most significant U.S. Air Force base in the Pacific region for this century," the American Forces Press Service quoted Wolborsky as saying. White said another one of Andersen's primary attractions is its access to airspace — an access he said continues to shrink in the continental United States, Europe, Korea, and Japan.

Source: http://www.guampdn.com/news/stories/20040922/localnews/12760_54.html

4. *September 20, Government Computer News* — **DARPA funds surveillance technology.** The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) has approved a second round of funding for the development of nighttime video surveillance technology. DARPA has awarded a two-year \$750,000 grant to a company which will continue work begun last year under a \$100,000 grant. **The goal is to extend the capabilities of current commercial video surveillance systems. The work will address challenges in tracking people and objects in a**

nighttime environment using multiple cameras. Some of the challenges include strange lighting effects, low light levels, and moving vehicle headlights. The company already has produced an intelligent surveillance system that automatically identifies suspicious objects or behavior. The technology compares the behavior of an object in a camera's view with a preset list of policies, alerting personnel when a policy has been violated. The technology has been implemented at a number of Department of Defense installations, including Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland, where Air Force One is based. It also is being used at a number of ports.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/defense-technology/27358-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

5. *September 21, Bloomberg News* — **Spain's BBVA to buy Laredo Bank in Texas for \$850 million.** Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA (BBVA), Spain's second-biggest bank, agreed to buy Texas-based Laredo National Bancshares Inc. for \$850 million, increasing its access to one of the largest Hispanic markets in the U.S. Banco Bilbao said the closely held Laredo, with \$3.4 billion of assets, has a 23 percent market share along the Texas-Mexico border. In May, BBVA's Bancomer unit bought Valley Bank of California for \$16.7 million. **BBVA, whose Bancomer unit is Mexico's largest commercial bank, is trying to link the Mexican and U.S. banking markets through acquisitions. The Spanish bank expects language and cultural ties will help it compete with Bank of America Corp. and other U.S. lenders that have similar strategies.** Spain-based BBVA already has the largest share of U.S.-Mexico wire transfers. BBVA's banking network seeks to unite Mexico and its northern neighbor, where more than 35 million U.S. Hispanics are increasingly using financial services.

Source: http://quote.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=10000087&sid=aPt_t0Jn1SUQ&refer=top_world_news

6. *September 20, allAfrica.com* — **EFCC arrests 28 cyber criminals.** The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) in joint operations with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has arrested 28 Internet fraudsters in Lagos, Nigeria. \$3.5 million was also recovered from the crooks in fraudulent cashier checks and goods bought over the Internet and shipped to Nigeria by credit card scammers. **In a release, Osita Nwajah, EFCC Head of Media and Publicity, said the yearlong cooperation between the EFCC and the FBI was targeted at stemming rising cases of cyber crime by Nigerians.** In a related development, U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft has commended President Olusegun Obasanjo for setting up the EFCC. He gave the commendation in Washington, DC, on August 2004 at an international media conference of law enforcement agencies to review Operation Web Snare, an interagency initiative. Ashcroft noted that cyber crime is a major source of global concern that can be effectively tackled only by committed governments and cooperative efforts between law enforcement agencies around the world. In reference to the Nigerian Government, Ashcroft cited the successful joint operations between the EFCC and the FBI as a fine example of the rewards of such commitment and collaboration.

Source: <http://allafrica.com/stories/200409201224.html>

7. *September 20, Silicon.com* — **Banks still failing money laundering fight. Many banks are still unable to monitor financial transactions across different countries, despite a massive**

increase in spending on anti-money-laundering technology. The Global Anti-Money-Laundering Survey 2004 by consultants KPMG found that 46 percent of respondents operating in six to 10 countries are unable to monitor transactions and account status across several different countries. For larger global banks operating in more than 10 countries, the figure was a quarter. Despite this, banks are spending more than ever before on technology and training to combat money laundering and are noticing an increased number of suspicious transactions. Automated monitoring systems are a key plank of the technology strategy for fighting money laundering with 61 percent using internally developed systems, 45 percent using externally developed systems and 22 percent using neither. But the human touch is still seen as vital and 94 percent said they rely on staff vigilance in addition to technology. **More than half of respondents said anti-money laundering technology could be better. Suggested improvements included better client and transaction profiling, pattern recognition of transactions, the broadening of electronic systems, and real-time monitoring of historical data.**

Source: <http://software.silicon.com/security/0,39024655,39124146,00.htm>

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Transportation Sector

8. *September 21, Associated Press* — **Hurricane Ivan crippled major Florida interstate. Washed out and damaged bridges, twisted rail lines and closed roads have already started to affect the flow of goods to, from and through the Florida Panhandle.** State officials say it's too early to know how much of an impact the damage caused by Hurricane Ivan will have on commercial transportation. But they are scrambling to minimize it by getting an I-10 replacement span over Escambia Bay opened in less than a month. "We're working around the clock to get the transportation system up and running again," said Florida Transportation Department spokesperson Dick Kane, adding the target date for the job's completion is October 11 and the contract includes a \$250,000 daily incentive for quick work. The repair will involve removing pieces from the eastbound span and placing them into the missing sections of the westbound part of the bridge. It would still be incredibly slow-going, making the highway one lane in each direction on a very heavily traveled route. **The transportation problems go beyond I-10. Some freight is not moving on CSX trains between New Orleans and Tallahassee because of the storm, although trains delivering building materials are using the tracks.** It's not just commercial traffic that's affected — commuters in Pensacola and along the Panhandle continue to face delays, as will anyone trying to fly or ride the rails out of the area.

Source: <http://www.signonsandiego.com/news/nation/20040921-0259-ivan-transportationblues.html>

9. *September 21, Port Clinton News Herald (OH)* — **Port authority, ferry lines receive homeland security grants. Ohio has received a total of \$201,307 for security improvements to the docks and harbors on the Lake Erie Islands from the Department of Homeland Security's Port Security Grant program.** "These awards to enhance port security are a critical component to improved homeland security," said Congressman Marcy Kaptur, whose office announced the awards. "Safety and security are crucial to the tourist economy and jobs on the Lake Erie Islands." Put-in-Bay Township Port Authority will receive \$127,900 for

Middle Bass Island Dock security improvements. In addition, Put-in-Bay Boat Lines, owners of the Jet Express, will receive \$45,480 in funding for facility security enhancements. Miller Boat Line Inc. will receive \$27,947 in funding for security and surveillance investments. Both boat lines serve Put-in-Bay and Middle Bass Island.

Source: <http://www.portclintonnewsheald.com/news/stories/20040921/localnews/1276624.html>

10. *September 21, ClickOnDetroit (MI)* — **Plane debris falls over Garden City neighborhood.** A Northwest Airlines (NWA) flight from Detroit to Japan was grounded after the plane lost parts over a Garden City neighborhood over the weekend. The Boeing 747 departed from Detroit Metropolitan Airport to Narita, Japan, with 355 passengers on board just after 3 p.m. Saturday, September 18, Local 4 News reported. **The control tower brought the plane back to the airport after the "door covering the air-conditioning unit fell off,"** a NWA representative told Local 4. The air-conditioning doors are located on the underside of the airplane, just in front of the landing gear, Local 4 reported. The doors are about five feet by six feet in diameter, according to the report. NWA said the door flipped open and broke apart because someone did not properly latch it. The airline said there was no safety issue on the aircraft and it could have continued on the flight to Japan, but the airplane turned around to prevent passenger discomfort related to the air conditioner. The airline said nobody was injured. **NWA and the Federal Aviation Administration are investigating the incident and looking at ways to prevent it from happening in the future,** the station reported.

Source: <http://www.clickondetroit.com/news/3748876/detail.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

11. *September 20, Federal Computer Week* — **USPS counts on tech to cut costs. Automation and information technology have helped U.S. Postal Service (USPS) officials trim \$8.3 billion from the organization's operating expenses, and Postmaster General John Potter expects that trend to continue.** Speaking to 6,000 USPS employees at the National Postal Forum in Washington, DC, Potter said he would continue to press for greater productivity gains through technology innovation. After trimming 72,000 career staff employees from the payroll in the past three years, the USPS is down to about 708,000 career staff employees, the same number it had in 1984. But those 708,000 employees are delivering 65 billion more pieces of mail to 48 million more addresses, Potter said. Through automation, USPS employees are sorting as much as 80 percent of the mail into the proper sequence for carriers to deliver it. Potter said his goal is 100 percent automated sequencing. USPS officials are interested in developing new automation technologies that will sort letters and flat mail packages into bundles ready for carriers to deliver, Potter said.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0920/web-usps-09-20-04.asp>

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Agriculture Sector

12. *September 22, Australian Press* — **Another mad cow case reported in Japan. A Holstein cow in western Japan has tested positive for mad cow disease, a news report said Tuesday, September 21. If the cow in Nara prefecture is confirmed to have the illness, it will mark the 13th case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Japan.** So far only preliminary tests have been conducted, Kyodo News reported. It did not immediately have other details. Japan confirmed its 12th case of mad cow last week after a five-year-old dairy cow tested positive for the disease in southern Japan. Japan was the first country to confirm mad cow disease outside of Europe, where it devastated cattle farms. Under a comprehensive screening system put in place after the outbreak three years ago, Japan tests every animal that is killed before it enters the food supply.
Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2004/09/22/1095651332705.html?oneclick=true>
13. *September 21, Dow Jones Newswires* — **Brazil stops sale of cotton seeds. Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture has stopped the sale to local producers of 70,000 bags of genetically modified (GM) cotton seeds, the Ministry said Monday, September 20.** GM organisms remain illegal in Brazil, and the agriculture ministry said it intensified its investigation of illegal GM cotton last month, after discovering it on four farms in Mato Grosso. Brazil is trying to pass legislation that will regulate the use of GM organisms, but the Senate delayed voting on the so-called biosecurity bill last week. Cotton producers hoped that the bill would pass before the planting season begins next month. Now, producers are hoping that the executive branch will issue a decree allowing them to plant GM cotton this year. Brazil's government issued a decree to allow planting of GM soy last year, and soy growers expect a similar decree to be issued for this year's plant season.
Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=27513
14. *September 21, Southeast Farm Press* — **Tomato yellow leaf curl virus. A team of researchers at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences have created a genetically engineered tomato plant that can shut down the tomato yellow leaf curl virus, a pathogen that has spread rapidly around the globe.** "If this virus appears in your field, you can easily lose your entire crop," said Jane Polston, a plant virologist with the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. "And even the growers who don't get the virus are spending lots of money on pesticides to stop the insect that carries the virus." Though it is difficult to assign a dollar figure to damage caused by the virus, yellow leaf curl is recognized as the most important limiting factor in many countries, Polston said. Widely found throughout the Mediterranean region, the disease spread to the Western Hemisphere in the early 1990s, wiping out the entire tomato industry in the Dominican Republic. Polston was the first scientist to identify the virus in a Florida tomato field. That 1997 discovery created a stir among growers, who recognized the virus as a major threat to the nation's tomato crop, which nets farmers more than one billion dollar each year according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
Source: <http://southeastfarmpress.com/news/92104Tomato-viurs/>
15. *September 21, MSNBC* — **Few answers as deer fall prey to disease.** Unlike mad cow disease, chronic wasting disease (CWD) infects species that remain a minor source of food for Americans, and there are notable scientific differences between the diseases. Yet there are plenty of similarities between mad cow and CWD. And the U.S. has an estimated 10 million deer hunters and 900,000 elk hunters; in Michigan alone, more than 500,000 deer are killed during hunting season. **Hundreds of thousands of Americans eat deer and elk meat. In**

areas infected with CWD, up to 10 percent or more of deer are found to carry the disease. Both mad cow and CWD are transmissible spongiform encephalopathies, or TSEs. They can both be passed from animal to animal, though by different means, and are thought to be caused by misshapen forms of proteins known as prions. **No cases of a human prion disease like variant Creutzfeldt–Jakob have been tied to eating deer or elk. At the same time, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) acknowledged cases of patients who died of neurological diseases after eating wild game.** In 2003, doctors at the VA Hospital in Seattle, WA, reported Creutzfeldt–Jakob disease in three hunters. A 2002 study documented three Wisconsin men who regularly ate venison and took part in large "game feasts" — two were diagnosed with CJD and one was diagnosed with Pick's disease, a form of dementia. Source: <http://msnbc.msn.com/id/5463499/>

16. *September 21, Agri News* — **Johne's disease. Johne's disease is more prevalent than producers think.** "It's not an easy disease to deal with," said Scott Wells, head of the Veterinary Public Health Division at the University of Minnesota. Johne's, a fecal–oral transmitted disease, typically infects cattle when they're very young but doesn't show up until a few years later. Cattle showing signs of Johne's have diarrhea and keep losing weight despite eating. After the bacteria is swallowed, it incubates for a long time in an animal's small intestine, thickening the lining until the animal can no longer absorb nutrients. **The hidden nature of the disease is what makes it difficult. For every cow in a herd showing symptoms of Johne's, Wells said, there are probably 12 to 18 that have it and are shedding the bacteria but showing no signs. It's estimated more than 20 percent of herds in the U.S. are infected with Johne's.** "Eradication is not the term," Wells said. "Eventually, maybe, but right now we're trying to control the disease." Source: <http://webstar.postbulletin.com/agrinews/39098956185410.bsp>

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Food Sector

17. *September 21, New York Times* — **FDA seeks rule to increase egg safety. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on Monday, September 20, proposed rules that would require egg farmers to clean up their operations to reduce the level of salmonella in their products.** In 2000, the agency advised consumers and grocers to refrigerate eggs and cook them thoroughly to kill harmful bacteria. The agency says the combined effects of this regulation and the one in 2000 could reduce the incidence of salmonella infections by 50 percent by 2010. The proposed regulations would apply only to those farms with more than 3,000 laying hens. **If the proposed rules take effect, chicken producers would have to buy their breeding stock from places that sell salmonella–free chicks. They would be required to institute systems to prevent salmonella from being transferred from the outside environment to poultry houses, and to have strict pest and rodent controls.** Eggs would have to be refrigerated if they were held on the farm more than 36 hours after laying. Environmental testing, including swabbing of manure pits, would have to be done once every laying cycle. If the salmonella tests were positive, then there would be further extensive testing of the eggs themselves. If one egg tested positive for salmonella, none of the eggs in that infected poultry house could be sold as raw eggs; they would have to be pasteurized before sale. Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2004/09/21/politics/21eggs.html>

Water Sector

18. *September 21, Reuters* — **Contaminated drinking water on planes. A surprising number of drinking water systems on domestic and foreign commercial aircraft tested this summer by the government did not meet federal standards because they were contaminated with potentially harmful bacteria, regulators said Monday, September 20.** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) suggested passengers with compromised immune systems not wash with water from the tap or drink beverages that are brewed or mixed on flights, like coffee or tea. The EPA said it was working to strike an agreement with carriers for proper oversight, maintenance, and sanitation of water delivery equipment and onboard storage tanks. No airline has been cited for violating federal clean water standards. The EPA randomly tested drinking water from 158 U.S. and foreign aircraft during August and September. The results showed more than 12 percent, or 20 aircraft, tested positively for total coliform bacteria. Water on two of those planes contained E.coli. Total coliform and E.coli indicate that other pathogens may be present.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/09/21/airlines.water.reut/>

19. *September 21, Los Angeles Times* — **Refinery charged in toxic dumping. The Los Angeles, CA, city attorney has filed 109 charges of environmental law violations against a Wilmington refinery for allegedly dumping harmful chemicals into a storm drain, officials said Monday, September 20.** Praxair's alleged discharges of nickel, zinc, and residual chlorine into storm drains violated the requirements of a permit issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board to limit chemical dumping, City Atty. Rocky Delgadillo said. The drains flow into the Dominguez Channel, which empties into the ocean. Many of the alleged violations occurred during one large spill of contaminated water. The discharges allegedly came from Praxair's Wilmington facility, where the firm produces liquefied natural gas products. The company uses cryogenic air separation technology to produce oxygen, nitrogen and argon. In the largest discharge, which occurred two years ago, 12,000 gallons of water containing copper, lead, zinc, and nickel were allegedly spilled after equipment became overtaxed, said Frank Mateljan, a spokesperson for the city attorney.

Source: <http://www.latimes.com/news/local/state/la-me-toxics21sep21.1.637177.story?coll=la-news-state>

Public Health Sector

20. *September 21, Agence France Presse* — **SARS cure in sight. Researchers from Hong Kong and the U.S. said on Tuesday, September 21, that they have found the chemicals that can stop the spread of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus, raising hopes for its cure.** Joint research by Hong Kong University and the Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center has created 104 molecules which they say renders useless the bug that causes SARS. "These are like keys, if you like, that fit the lock to stop SARS replicating," said Richard Kao,

assistant research professor at the Hong Kong University's microbiology department. Kao said researchers had engineered more than 50,000 molecules to test on laboratory samples of the virus. The next step would be to test the chemicals on animals in a special lab being constructed in Hong Kong.

Source: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/858520.cms>

21. *September 21, Reuters* — Thousands in the UK may have been exposed to vCJD. Six thousand Britons are to be told they may have been exposed to the human form of mad cow disease through blood products, the government said on Tuesday, September 21.

Liam Donaldson, Britain's chief medical officer, told a news conference that the risk of people developing the deadly degenerative brain disease was very small but the government was taking a "highly precautionary" approach. He said a risk assessment identified people who may be at a small increased risk of developing vCJD than the rest of the population who ate beef during the 1980s and 1990s. "This information will enable these people and their doctors to take the necessary steps to minimize the risk of onward transmission of vCJD," Donaldson said. Blood products, such as clotting agents to treat bleeding disorders, are made from donated blood. Two cases of suspected transmission of the infective agent through a blood transfusion have been reported. Both patients received blood from donors who were later identified as being infected. Britain banned people who have had transfusions in the past two decades from donating blood after the first case was reported.

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=healthNews&storyID=6291002>

22. *September 21, Medical News Today* — Scientists decipher code of biothreat pathogen.

Scientists have deciphered the genetic code of the ancient pathogen that causes the horse disease: *Burkholderia mallei*. **The study found that *B. mallei*, a highly evolved pathogen that has been deployed in the past as a biological weapon, has an extremely regulated set of virulence genes and an unstable genome that may explain the bacterium's ability to thwart the immune responses of its host animals — mainly horses, mules, and donkeys.**

"The combination of virulence genes and genomic instability may explain why some scientists consider this to be the ultimate bacterial pathogen," says William Nierman, the first author of the study, which is being published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. As part of the study, scientists used DNA microarrays to better understand the functions of *B. mallei* virulence genes. Nierman, an investigator at The Institute for Genomic Research, said the new study, along with a report on the related bacterium *B. pseudomallei*, "has dramatically increased our understanding of the biology and pathogenicity of these very sophisticated pathogens." Cultures of *B. mallei* were used as biological weapons during the U.S. Civil War, World War I and World War II. In addition, there have been reports that the Soviet Union weaponized the pathogen and possibly used it during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

Source: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=13780>

23. *September 20, News-Medical.net* — New computer program helps health departments halt outbreaks. Based on a software model created by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Eva Lee, a professor of industrial and systems engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology, developed a software program, called RealOpt, to help U.S. state, city, and county healthcare departments organize the most efficient plan for treating infectious illness, whether it's a natural or man-made outbreak. While government health departments have emergency plans in place, it is difficult to test a plan's efficiency against the urgency and

sheer number of patients an outbreak would create. **RealOpt can be used to prepare for a possible outbreak, as well as for emergency re-assignment of health care workers within a clinic and between clinics during an actual outbreak. By determining their preparedness, health departments will have a thorough estimate of what resources and funds they will need to treat their communities before an actual outbreak occurs.** The program takes the numerous variables associated with an emergency health care facility's treatment of a very large group of people, and through simulation and optimization, pinpoints the most efficient way to move patients through the facility. Using the program, a health care department can determine the most efficient facility layout, the number of health care professionals needed in certain areas, the number of vaccinations needed, and the time it will take to treat patients.

Source: <http://www.news-medical.net/?id=4931>

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

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Emergency Services Sector

24. *September 21, TheIowaChannel* — Council Bluffs under mock attack. Council Bluffs, IA, simulated a terrorist attack Tuesday, September 21, and officials made it very realistic. There was simulated gunfire and explosions. Most of the equipment used for the drill belonged to the 71st Civil Support Team out of Des Moines. The 22-member Iowa National Guard group is certified by the U.S. Department of Defense, and trains to be among the first responders in case of an attack. The team brings lab and identification equipment into hot spots and can help establish whether an attack is nuclear, biological or chemical. It also has secure satellite communications that can be set up in minutes, and advanced detection equipment. Several other counties around the country are planning full-scale exercises, but Council Bluffs' drill will be the first 36-hour, full-scale exercise since September 11, 2001, and is being watched by closely. The Department of Homeland Security gave Council Bluffs a grant to pay for the drill.

Source: <http://www.theiowachannel.com/news/3747370/detail.html>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

25. *September 21, Washington Post* — Cybersecurity firms to merge. Providers of network security systems, TruSecure Corporation and Betrusted Holdings, agreed to merge to form a new company named Cybertrust. **Worldwide, it will have about 1,000 employees, 4,000 clients, and \$160 million in annual revenue. The combined company will sell intrusion detection technologies, firewall application management systems and consulting services to business clients.** The new company will use these products and skills to address vulnerability issues, evolving regulatory compliance requirements and identity management

needs.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A36915-2004Sep 20.html>

26. *September 21, Government Technology* — **Federal e-government is good but not improving fast enough.** More federal government Websites are declining in terms of user satisfaction than are increasing, according to the latest special quarterly e-government report of the American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI). The report is a sign that improvement in e-government may be leveling off, according to an accompanying analysis by online satisfaction expert and ForeSee Results CEO Larry Freed. "E-government is generally good," said Freed. "The problem is that it is generally not getting a lot better." Freed's analysis suggests that user expectations are being ratcheted up by the constant improvement on private-sector sites. **Of the 54 sites whose scores are reported in the latest ACSI e-government report, 33 percent have improved, 41 percent have declined, and 17 percent have stayed the same.** Freed noted that government portal sites have been improving, albeit slowly. **The best-performing sites continue to be health-information sites operated by the National Institutes of Health, especially MedlinePlus.** Report: <http://www.theacsi.org/>
Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=91508>

27. *September 21, CNET News.com* — **Pentagon may lift voting site blockade.** The Department of Defense said Tuesday, September 21, that it's trying to find a way to permit American expatriates to connect to an absentee voting site that has been cordoned off because of the risk of hackers. **Internet users in large portions of the world have been blocked from connecting to the voting assistance Website, www.fvap.gov, which tells absentee voters how to cast ballots in the November election.** The Website is operated by the Pentagon. The list of Internet providers that appear to be blocked includes British Telecom, Wanadoo, Telefonica and China Telecom. "We're aware of the problem, and we're working on a solution," Pentagon spokesperson Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke said. "We hope to have a fix in place as soon as possible." Krenke said that overseas Internet providers are blocked when U.S. government computers detect "any type of probing" coming from their network. She said that for now, U.S. voters can obtain the necessary forms directly from their state election officials or from a U.S. embassy. Lending some urgency to the Pentagon's attempts to lift the restrictions is the fast-approaching October 2 deadline for submitting absentee ballots in some states.
Source: http://news.com.com/Pentagon+may+lift+voting+site+blockade/2100-1028_3-5376044.html

28. *September 20, USA Today* — **Non-profit computer lab hunts cybercrooks.** Inside an inconspicuous office in a business park on the banks of the Monongahela River in Pennsylvania, two dozen employees of the National Cyber-Forensics & Training Alliance (NCFTA) quietly work. This non-profit computer lab simulates Internet attacks and relies on diagnostic tools that extract clues from tainted PCs and suspicious Websites. **In August, a Department of Justice sting led to 160 arrests, including dozens of spammers and online fraudsters. Key evidence came from NCFTA whose discoveries could fetch more arrests.** NCFTA was established in 2002 as an extension of the Pittsburgh High Tech Crimes Task Force, a team of federal, state and local law enforcement officials. The federal government, private industry and academia underwrite NCFTA's annual budget of about \$750,000. **Digital evidence is shared among a coterie of NCFTA partners — the FBI, the National White Collar Crime Center, Carnegie Mellon, West Virginia University, Microsoft and others —**

to understand who is behind digital attacks and track them down. "As much as we've been trained in cybercrime, the reality is we need the tech industry's expertise to target the bad guys," says Dan Larkin, unit chief of IC3 and founder of NCFTA.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/technology/2004-09-20-cybersleuths_x.htm

29. *September 20, Federal Computer Week* — **Multistate info center planned.** Defense Department officials plan to work through the New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination to sign up states and other governments to a new information-sharing center. The new Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) is one of many centers being established by government and private-sector officials under the 2003 National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace. **What is still needed is an organization to help enroll all 50 states, the District of Columbia, U.S. territories and American Indian tribes for this center.** Organization officials plan to award a one-year contract to the New York office because the work must be done by the government, and Defense officials believe the state is the only one that can meet all the requirements. However, other state agencies can also provide such services and may submit information by 2 p.m., September 24.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2004/0920/web-msiasc-09-20-04.asp>

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: Microsoft released a new security bulletin detailing critical vulnerabilities in the way it handles JPEG graphics. More information can be found here:
<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms04-028.msp>.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	135 (epmap), 1434 (ms-sql-m), 445 (microsoft-ds), 137 (netbios-ns), 1433 (ms-sql-s), 9898 (dabber), 5554 (sasser-ftp), 3127 (mydoom), 1026 (nterm), 1027 (icq)
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Source: <http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html>; Internet Storm Center

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

30.

September 21, Florida Today (FL) — **Bomb squad searches Rockledge, Florida building.**

Police have given the all clear to at least 100 employees forced out of an aluminum tubing factory in Rockledge, FL, for four hours because of a bomb threat. Police said the bomb threat was phoned in to the security office at Hydro Aluminium about 3:46 a.m. Employees were moved out to the parking lot while the Brevard County Sheriff's bomb squad, along with two dogs, searched the plant complex. "The bomb-sniffing dog indicated something was in the lockerroom," said Acting Sgt. Chet Johnson of the Rockledge Police Department. "The bomb squad went in with its robot, opened up a locker but nothing was found." An investigation is ongoing into who made the phone call, Johnson added.

Source: <http://www.floridatoday.com/topstories/092104bomb.htm>

31. *September 21, AScribe Newswire* — **Berkeley Lab program helps building managers prepare for chemical, biological, radiological threats. A team of researchers at the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory has developed an interactive computer program that building managers and owners can use to assess their vulnerability to -- and to prepare for -- chemical, biological, and radiological (CBR) weapons attacks or accidental toxic releases.** The Building Vulnerability Assessment and Mitigation Program (BVAMP) can be obtained free through a website established by Berkeley Lab, which provides advice on CBR responses for buildings: <http://securebuildings.lbl.gov/BVAMP.html> "Protecting buildings against CBR agents is an unfamiliar area for many building managers," says Tracy Thatcher, a scientist in Berkeley Lab's Environmental Energy Technologies Division (EETD) and a principal investigator in this effort. According to Thatcher, the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning system (HVAC) is often the first line of defense in the case of airborne CBR agents. "Preplanning and manipulating the HVAC system can significantly reduce the severity of a release," she says. CBR threats can include deliberate terrorist attacks resulting in the release of hazardous materials, or accidents such as freight-train derailments and refinery releases.

Source: <http://www.ascribe.org/cgi-bin/spew4th.pl?ascribeid=20040921.100432&time=1037PDT&year=2004&public=1>

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General Sector

Nothing to report.

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP Web page (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Alerts – Advisories and Information Bulletins: DHS/IAIP produces two levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is

significant, credible, timely, and that addresses cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

[DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports](#) – The DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report is a daily [Monday through Friday] summary and assessment of open–source published information concerning significant critical infrastructure issues.

[DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive](#) – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports.

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

Content and Suggestions:

Send mail to dhsdailyadmin@mail.dhs.osis.gov or contact the DHS/IAIP Daily Report Team at (703) 883–3644.

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Contact DHS/IAIP

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282–9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US–CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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